

**FIFTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**
(5–6 November 2024, Papeete, French Polynesia)

Working Paper

**WORKING PAPER NO. 2: CROP COOPERATION AND COORDINATION: 2050 STRATEGY FOR
THE BLUE PACIFIC CONTINENT AND THE REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE (RRA)**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

Paper summary

1. This working paper is in two parts: Part 1 provides an overview of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan's (2050 IP) progress. It outlines the development of key foundational tools, including the Executive Summary of the 2050 Strategy Baseline Report and the High-Level Summary of the 2024 Prioritised Regional Collective Actions (RCAs), which the Pacific Community (SPC) has been contributing to shaping. The paper emphasises ongoing efforts and resources committed to monitoring progress, strengthening regional cooperation and highlights the critical need for tailored member support.
2. Part 2 updates on the Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA) following recent endorsements by Forum Leaders during the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM) in Tonga. This section presents a summary of the activities conducted during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the RRA (January–July 2024), with ongoing technical support from SPC, overseen by the RRA Working Group (RRAWG), and under the oversight of the Forum Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (FSC2050).

Key points

3. Forum Leaders endorsed the Executive Summary of the 2050 Baseline Report at the 53rd PIFLM and serves as a critical tool for evidence-based policy guidance, highlighting gaps and opportunities across key thematic and sectoral areas, aligned to the sustainable development goals.
4. The 2050 Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan will support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy by providing clear reporting to Forum Leaders. It will also facilitate ongoing assessments of the 2050 IP and measure progress against RCAs, which will allow strategies to be adapted accordingly. SPC has designed a [Blue Pacific 2050 dashboard](#), which was recently launched to inform annual reporting to Forum Leaders utilising existing regional and national reporting processes. Bringing visibility to regional initiatives that promote deeper regional integration will enhance cooperation among member states and partners, ensuring collective responsibility for and shared success in realising the 2050 Strategy's ambitions.

5. Phase 1 of the RRA was completed in April 2024 through collaborative efforts by Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies to ensure a fit-for-purpose implementation mechanism to deliver the 2050 IP. Subsequent efforts focused on drafting the Phase 2 report, which emphasises the need to enhance coordination, coherence and cooperation between existing regional frameworks, CROP agencies and other partners to support the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 Strategy).
6. Phase 2 of the RRA focused on a review of existing review reports and studies on the regional architecture undertaken between 2000 and 2019. Phase 2 considered the key issues and challenges identified in Phase 1 of the RRA and built on existing recommendations from past reviews to propose a range of recommendations that are intended to strengthen coherence, collaboration and cooperation within the existing regional architecture.
7. Moving forward, it is essential to prepare for Phase 3, which focuses on four aspects: (1) implementation of Phase 2 recommendations; (2) mapping of agencies and institutions beyond CROP; (3) elaboration of the partnership dialogue mechanism; and (4) independent rationalisation of the regional architecture.

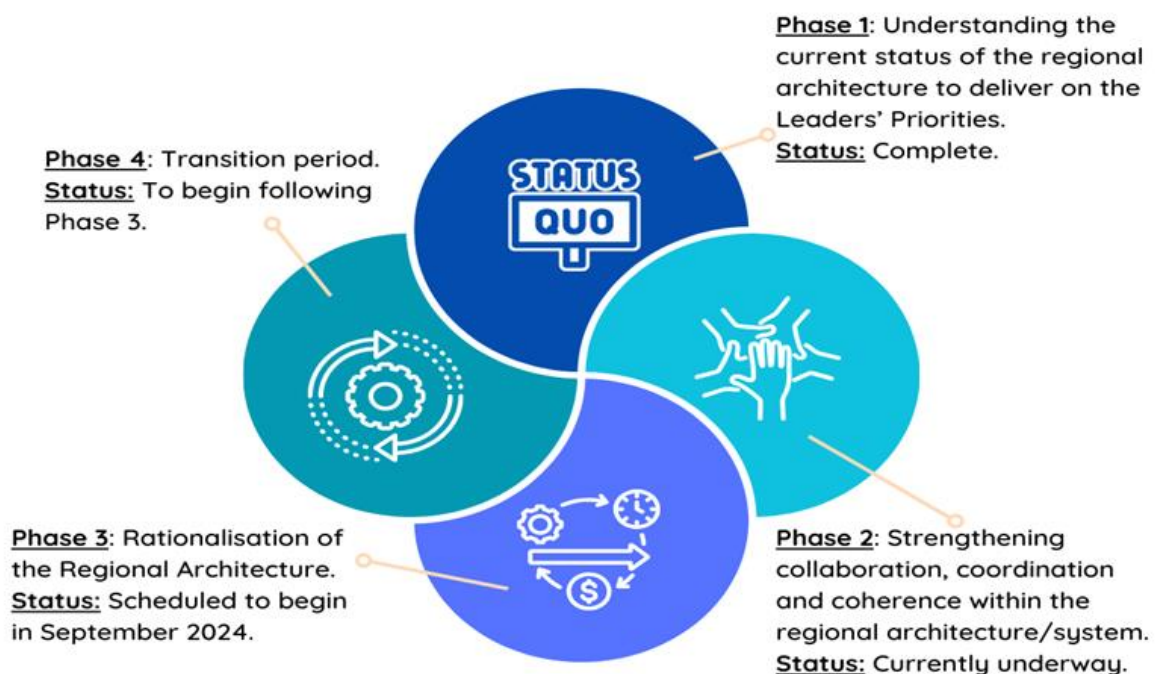
Recommendations

8. CRGA is requested to:
 - i. recognise concerted efforts undertaken to continue to implement the 2050 Implementation Plan and key deliverables for reporting to Forum Leaders, which include the Executive Summary of the 2050 Strategy Baseline Report with the detailed report to be finalised and the high-level summary of the 2024 Regional Collective Actions;
 - ii. acknowledge the work underway on the 2050 dashboard that will inform annual reporting to Forum Leaders and guide the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, encouraging reflection on advancements towards regional integration; and
 - iii. recognise and encourage the continued support and contribution by SPC in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy and Review of the Regional Architecture work.

Background

9. The 2050 Strategy articulates our collective vision for sustainable development and enhanced regional cooperation in the Pacific. A robust baseline will inform approaches and actions for monitoring progress against the 2050 IP and key RCAs, as well as facilitate effective policy guidance. This year, significant advancements have been made, including development of the 2050 Strategy Baseline Report, MEL Plan and High-Level Summary of the 2024 Prioritised RCAs.
10. The Forum Officials Committee (FOC) through FSC2050 continues to oversee implementation of 2050 IP, as endorsed by PIFLM at the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga in 2024.
11. While 2050 IP sets forth actionable steps to realise the vision for a sustainable Blue Pacific Continent, the 2050 Baseline Report offers essential data to assess current regional conditions. The design of the 2050 dashboard by SPC further strengthens the region's capabilities for annual reporting to Forum Leaders.
12. Connected to this work stream is the RRA, which aims to enhance governance frameworks for strengthened coordination, cooperation and collaboration as we implement the 2050 IP.
13. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Review were progressed between January and July 2024 by the RRAWG with oversight provided by the FSC2050.

RRA Phased Approach



Analysis

2050 Implementation Plan

14. The 2050 Baseline Report provides a comprehensive overview of regionalism and sustainable development in the Pacific, assessed through the seven thematic areas outlined in the 2050 Strategy. Drawing on data from the Pacific Data Hub, the draft report highlights areas where existing initiatives and regional collective actions are on track or require attention. This baseline will serve as a reference for the FOC, CROP agencies, and development partners in designing, resourcing and steering future regional collective actions.
15. The High-Level Summary of the 2024 Prioritised RCAs offers insights into progress on 28 select actions from the 2050 IP. It identifies leading CROP agencies, status and anticipated timelines, alongside an update on funding commitments from dialogue partners under the Pacific Partner Action and Commitment Engagement Plans (PACE Plans). This focused approach centres on partnership accountability and transparency. Further work will be progressed under the RRA.
16. Although the recommendations in Phase 2 of the RRA report are not entirely new, they seek to improve operational efficiencies across various regional mechanisms. The intent is to create a more cohesive and collaborative approach among member states. Moving forward, it is essential to prepare for Phase 3, which involves rationalising the regional architecture. This phase will require broader consultations and active participation from all sectors, ensuring that diverse perspectives are incorporated into the rationalisation process.
17. Members were also invited to engage in discussions regarding the proposal for a tiered structure in the Forum Dialogue Partnership, with an emphasis on providing further feedback on this partnership approach.

Conclusion

18. The implementation of the 2050 Strategy is taking a whole-of-region approach that is progressing well, with foundational tools designed and in place to guide policy development for implementation. Continuous assessment and refinement are necessary to ensure alignment with the strategic vision that addresses gaps, challenges and duplicated efforts.
19. Similarly, the RRA process aims to ensure that the region is fit for purpose by fostering enhanced and coordinated regional collaboration that contributes to the vision outlined in the 2050 Strategy—this is critical for addressing the existing and emerging development challenges within the region and globally.

Recommendations

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 - ii. acknowledge the work underway on the Blue Pacific 2050 dashboard that will inform annual reporting to Forum Leaders and guide the implementation of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, encouraging reflection on advancements towards regional integration; and
 - iii. Recognise and encourage the continued support and contribution by SPC in the implementation of the 2050 Strategy and Review of the Regional Architecture work.